United Nations S/2015/349

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 May 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 18 May 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to submit to you a press release by the Government of the Republic of Burundi on threats to peace in Burundi (see annex).

I kindly request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Anésie **Ndayishimiye**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 18 May 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: French]

Press release from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Burundi on threats to peace in Burundi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to inform the nation and the international community that the Government of Burundi congratulates the defence and security forces for thwarting the attempted coup d'état that took place on 13 and 14 May 2015. The rebels who had proclaimed the overthrow of the President of the Republic and the Government have been defeated and most of them have been arrested. The defence and security forces are still tracking some of the fugitives while those who have been arrested have been brought before the competent courts.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation recalls that the attempted coup d'état was the culmination of the illegal and violent demonstrations that began in Bujumbura on 26 April 2015 at the behest of certain civil society officials and some opposition leaders. It should be noted that those responsible for the demonstrations had applauded the attempted coup d'état, and that faced with failure, they are threatening to rekindle those demonstrations. In that context, the demonstrators will be treated as associates of the putschists, because they will be obstructing the investigations into the attempted putsch and deliberately disrupting public order.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation condemns in the strongest possible terms all persons and organizations, whether Burundian or foreign, that supported the attempted coup d'état and that refuse to condemn the illegal and violent demonstrations. Since the pretext of the allegedly anti-constitutional candidature of President Pierre Nkurunziza is no longer an issue, all the key Burundian players and all partners of Burundi are called upon to respect the decision of the Constitutional Court, as had been recommended by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation points out that the campaigns for the election of municipal councillors and members of the National Assembly are unfolding according to the timetable established by the Independent National Electoral Commission. During this period, any other form of demonstration is banned under Burundian law, and those who violate the law must be brought before the competent authorities, something which the security forces enforce scrupulously.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation notes that, as at 15 May 2015, terrorists from the Somalia-based Al-Shabaab movement had broadcast a message warning countries contributing troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia of imminent attacks on their territories, including that of Burundi. The Government of Burundi takes these threats seriously and has raised its alert and prevention level. Special measures have been announced to prevent and foil the sinister plans of the terrorists. The Government of Burundi is seeking the

support of friendly countries and partners for the sharing of information and strategies with a view to combating terrorism effectively.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation reiterates the gratitude of the Government of Burundi towards the friendly countries and partners that support respect for the laws and institutions of Burundi. It reaffirms the determination of the Government of Burundi to complete the electoral process successfully in order to avoid an institutional vacuum.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation reiterates that the Government of Burundi supports any proposal by the Independent National Electoral Commission that dovetails with the recommendations of the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the Heads of State of the East African Community in support of adjusting the timetable for the municipal and legislative elections within the time frames set forth in the Constitution.

Done at Bujumbura, 18 May 2015